

## *The Chief Constables Association of Canada*

The Chief Constables Association of Canada on July 4, 5, 6, held its annual meeting in the City of Montreal. For seventeen years this excellent organization has been quietly building up the standard of the policeman in Canada, and those who had the opportunity of attending the Montreal meeting could not help but come to the conclusion that the pioneers of the association had laid down foundations on which had been erected one of the most effectual forces in the social development of the Dominion. The association can in no way be termed a union—that is, a trades union—though at the convention papers were given and discussions arose relating to the betterment of police officers generally, such as pension funds and even better pay for constables, but monetary advantages to themselves as chiefs of police evidently forms no part of the programme of the association. The object of the association is twofold, namely to secure “concerted action in the pursuit of criminals and suppression of crime,” and “the general improvement of the police service.” The one dominant note at the meeting was to render the best service to the community.

In laying stress on the giving of the best service, without any consideration of reward, other than the esteem of their fellow citizens, the Chief Constables' Association is not only rendering a service to the civic life of the Dominion, but is actually strengthening the position of its members, inasmuch as greater efficiency, with its own reward, is bound to be the result.

The policeman, from the Chief down to the latest joined constable, is not only the embodiment of that great bulwark of British democracy—law and order—but is the living link between the local authorities and the citizens. A good policeman is the walking encyclopedia of the community, with the patience of a Job and the chivalry of a Sir Galahad, and through the influence of the Chief Constables Association, the average policeman in Canada to-day is a good policeman. It is true the rank and file of the police forces are not eligible for membership in the association, but the chiefs are, and what the chiefs learn from the conventions is reflected on those under them.

As we listened to paper after paper read by members of the association, every one a splendid specimen of manhood, we could not help but be convinced that brawn and brain can go together, for every paper given was a gem in lucidity, and more than one reached a high standard in literary effort. But what impressed one most was the spirit of comradeship that prevailed throughout the proceedings. This spirit was well illustrated at one of the sessions when two of the oldest members the ex-chief constable of Belleville and an inspector of Toronto, who had been in the police service forty-three and fifty-three years respectively, and still in harness—were presented with tokens of the respect and love in which they were held by their fellow members. It was a human touch that affected every man present. A second illustration of the spirit of the meeting was given at the banquet, when the wives of the English members presented a silver flower vase each to Mesdames Belanger and Lapage, wives respectively of the Chief of Montreal

and his Chief of Detectives. A real bon entente offering. So long as the cities and towns of Canada can produce chiefs of police such as attended the Montreal convention there need be no fear of their inability to put down crime.

### THE MAYOR'S CHAIR.

At a very interesting ceremony at Toronto City Hall ex-speaker Lowther of the British House of Commons, in drawing attention to the beautiful design of the Mayor's chair laid stress on its importance as a symbol of law and order. Under the British system of government the speaker's chair, whether it be that of the House of Commons in London or any of the elective assemblies in the different parts of the Empire, is symbolical of all that is best in British democracy—respect for those put into authority by the representatives of the people. In a lesser degree the mayor's chair stands for the same idea and it is in keeping with the spirit of the constitution that those who conduct the deliberations of the local council should be chaired in a becoming manner. And probably in no part of the Empire is the spirit of mayoral dignity carried out so well as in Canada—at least so far as the mayor's chair is concerned—for in most of the urban centres the mayor's chair is a thing of real beauty and taste.

### UNION OF MUNICIPAL SECRETARY-TREASURERS.

The Editor:

In your June issue appears an article on the formation of a Union of Secretary-Treasurers, in which article you state that this is the first organization of its kind to be successfully launched in Canada.

You are apparently not aware that in British Columbia, an association known as the “Municipal Officers Association of British Columbia” was formed in 1919 and assembled in convention at the City of North Vancouver, and meets annually at the same time and place as the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

This Association is working on almost identical lines as the Saskatchewan organization and I enclose an abbreviated report of their work done at Nelson in 1920. From this you will see that this is a very useful body, taking much detail work off the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and has greatly assisted in promoting the interests and simplifying the work of the municipalities of British Columbia.

Trusting that you will make a note of this in your journal,

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

JACK LOUTET,

President,

Union of B. C. Municipalities.

Here's a pertinent question every community should ask itself during Fire Prevention Week—

“How can we ever hope to overcome our housing shortage as long as we allow fire to destroy one-fourth of the buildings we build every year?”

The answer is—Build so it won't burn.